

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,036,380 to Astroth et al., hereafter Astroth.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the “first component can move relative to the second component, independently from the contact force (Fz) between said components at said second position.”

Neither of Astroth’s components 10 or 30 can move relative to the other independently from the contact force. Thus, Astroth lacks this relationship of the first and second components as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Moreover, the Examiner’s position that Astroth’s components 10 and 30 inherently move relative one another since they have different coefficients of expansion is untenable. Components 10 and 30 are fixedly attached to one another at spaced positions 52/56 such that any expansion by one of the components causes both to move as one as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 10 of the present application. Thus, because components 10 and 30 are fixedly attached to one another at a plurality of spaced locations, they do not inherently move relative to one another due to differing coefficients of expansion. Thus, Astroth also lacks this characteristic of the relationship of the first and second components as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Astroth is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Astroth.

As noted above, Astroth lacks the relationship that a first component moves relative to another component independently from the contact force (Fz) therebetween recited by amended claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection is obviated by the amendment.

Also, as noted above, Astroth's components 10 and 30 do not inherently move relative to one another. Thus, for this additional reason, the rejection is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 10 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Astroth in view of U.S Patent No. 6,196,672 to Ito et al., hereafter Ito.

As noted above, Astroth lacks the relationship that a first component moves relative to another component independently from the contact force (Fz) therebetween recited by amendment claim 1. Also, as noted above, Astroth's components 10 and 30 do not inherently move relative to one another. Ito was cited as teaching a vacuum assembly being attached to a platen and does not supply the above noted relationship that Astroth lacks.

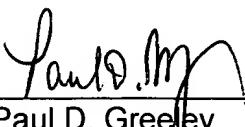
For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action cites a number of patents that were not applied in the rejections of the claims. These patents have been reviewed, but are believed to be inapplicable to the claims.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1-11 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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